

## **Risk Assessment and Challenge Policy**

*'A hazard is something a child does not see. A risk is a challenge a child can see and chooses to undertake or not. Eliminating risk leads to a child's inability to assess danger.'*

Pen Green

At Kintore Way Children's Centre we believe that the health and safety of children and families is of paramount importance.

We also believe there is a delicate balance between keeping children safe and encouraging risk and challenge in children's thinking. Allowing children to take risks within a safe and secure environment is vital.

A risk is anything that an individual child does not normally choose to do.

The key message from the Health and Safety Executive is:

*Play is great for children's well-being and development. When planning and providing play opportunities, the goal is not to eliminate risk, but to weigh up the risks and benefits.*

### **Risk Assessment**

Good risk assessment takes into account the age of the children, the nature of the activity, the physical environment and the degree of supervision required. Activities which present children with risk and challenge can go ahead on the clear understanding that small mishaps that occur are part of the learning experience for everyone.

### **The Adult Role**

The adult role is to enable the child to achieve their own challenges and to recognise when a child is taking a risk and support them. The adult is a sensitive observer, drawing children's attention to any potential dangers and helping them to find solutions. Involving children in assessing risk is part of their learning experience.

Practitioners use their own judgement and expertise as well as, where appropriate, the judgement of others to ensure that assessments and controls proposed are proportionate to the risks involved.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Practitioners spend time explaining to children what makes activities potentially dangerous, and demonstrate how to behave safely.

### **The Environment**

The premise officer does a daily check of the outdoor area. All practitioners continuously assess the indoor and outdoor environment. Risks and hazards are reported.

### **Outings**

There are a variety of occasions when children are taken outside of the Centre.

There is a legal requirement to carry out risk assessments for outings. This should include an assessment of the ratios of adults to children and an assessment of the risks and hazards that might arise.

All outings are planned for, risk assessed and then evaluated, this process is carried out in order to eliminate danger in as far as possible. Staff need to continuously risk assess while they are out on visits identifying hazards as they arise.

There must be a risk assessment for every **type** of outing.

### **Forest Schools**

All trips re Forest School are planned well ahead of time ensuring transport, children's medical needs and ratios are risk assessed on a regular basis.

A full risk assessment will take place on the site where the forest school activities will take place. Risk assessments for activities and the use of tools are regularly completed.

### **Individual Risk Assessments**

Occasionally children may need an individual risk assessment to assess specific behaviour or medical conditions. These would include children with Special Educational Needs who demonstrate behaviours that could harm to themselves or others as well as children with medical needs who may require treatment while onsite or on a trip.

### **Commissioned Services**

Each group is responsible for writing risk assessments. Copies of these are given to the Centre and the requirement for regular risk assessments is included in the service level agreements.

### **Ellen Brown**

A general building risk assessment is stored and updated by Southwark Play Services. For groups and sessions hosted by Kintore Way Children's Centre or a commissioned service – risk assessments reflecting the use of space during individual or repeated sessions will be required. These risk assessments are stored in the Ellen brown office.

### **Parental Partnership**

Our approach is shared with parents during the induction period and throughout the year. We listen to their views and encourage them to understand the importance of young children becoming independent and self-sufficient.

### **Responsibilities**

The person responsible with overall responsibility for Health and Safety is the Headteacher. The Deputy Head (Day-care) is the lead person for Health and Safety.

Whole centre risk assessments are reviewed on a 3 monthly basis.

Risk assessments are reviewed once an activity or outing has taken place.

Risk assessments are reviewed following from accident/incident reporting.

### **Monitoring and Frequency of Risk Assessments**

The frequency of risk assessments are normally carried out, weekly, monthly, termly, six-monthly or on an annual basis depending on the area/activity requiring assessment. However, additional risk assessments are completed due to factors such as:

- the nature of activities;
- changes in activities;
- changes in staff/personnel;
- changes in staff circumstances (e.g. pregnancy)
- Prior to starting a task or project and cover the implementation, use, cleaning, maintenance, disassembly or removal of equipment and structures.

Monthly health and safety walks take place across the whole Centre and a checklist is completed.

All staff are responsible for health and safety. Daily risk assessing takes place when equipment is set up inside and outside.

High risk activities, including cooking, fire bowls, and woodwork and using the ladders have written risk assessments. These are reviewed every 3 months.

### **Links to other Policies**

Health and Safety

Managing Medicines

Accident/Incident Reporting Procedure- Southwark

Outings Policy

Southwark risk assessment policy

### **Legislation**

Health and safety at Work Act 1974

The Early Years Foundation Stage 2012

Requirements for Risk Assessments- A childcare factsheet- Ofsted November 2012

*Related documents*

***Children's Play and Leisure - Promoting a Balanced Approach -The Health and Safety Executive***

# Kintore Way Nursery School & Children's Centre

## Policy Name

Risk Assessment and Challenge Policy

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**Adopted and signed on behalf of the Centre by the Governing Body at the meeting on**

Curriculum Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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## Name of Governing Body Representative

Chair of Curriculum Committee

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## Signature of Governing Body Representative

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Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be reviewed: Spring 2017